(b) The information relating cost of production of a particular unit is matter of confidentiality for commercial reasons. Import of ammonia which is a key input for manufacture of caprolactam is fully exempted from import duty which was 40% prior to budget 1997-98. This should entail reduction in manufacturing cost. The domestic selling price of about Rs. 68000 per MT is stable since July 1996. The domestic manufacturers are adopting pro active sales policies by aligning their prices to prevailing international prices to retain their market share.

(c) and (d) FACT has stated that their production and sales were generally not affected by reduction in customs duty. The decline in production in (a) above is stributed to power restrictions imposed by the State Govoernment. GSFC the other producer has stated that they have been able to maintain production level. Higher availability of power would help attain higher level of production by FACT, thereby reducing cost of production and realising better margins.

Clearance to nitro-phosphate project at Hazira

*588. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Public Investment Board had given the first stage clearance in June, 1994 for a nitro-phosphate project at Hazira by KRIBHCO;

(b) whether the second stage clearance was given by PIB in June, 1996;

(c) whether environmental clearance was also accorded;

(d) whether the PIB had recommended the project to CCEA for approval; and

(e) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The Nitro-phosphate / calcium Ammonium Nitrate project of Krishak Bharati Cooperative limited (KRIBHCO) was accorded 1st stage clearance on 26.5.94 and 2nd stage clearance on 30.1.96.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Before the proposal could be submitted for final investment approval of the Government, the Board of Directors of KRIBHCO reassessed the project parameters, notably those relating to the realisation of the projected ammonia surplus and the relative advantage in the sale of merchant ammonia. In the light of this review, it was decided to drop the proposal.

Transparency in Railway purchases

*589. SMT. ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had stated that in order to bring transparency in the purchases undertaken by railways and to remove the scope for corruption he has planned to organise exhibitions notifying the charges paid for the various commodities purchased or to be purchased by the railways; and

(b) if so, the details of the centres proposed to be opened by the various